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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,419	11/12/2003	Paul D. Stultz	016295.1471	6796
7590		03/29/2007	EXAMINER	
Roger Fulghum Baker Botts L.L.P. One Shell Plaza 910 Louisiana Street Houston, TX 77002-4995			DALEY, CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2111	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	03/29/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/706,419	STULTZ, PAUL D.
	Examiner Christopher A. Daley	Art Unit 2111

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman et al (US6282601) hereinafter Goodman in view of Sedmak (US20040019722).

4. As to claim 1, Goodman discloses an information handling system, comprising: a plurality of processors coupled to a processor bus (Goodman teaches in figure 1 of a plurality of processors 12a, 12b ... 12n, COL. 3, lines 1 - 10)., and a memory (a system memory 16 in figure 1, COL. 3, lines 1 - 10).,

Goodman does not explicitly teach wherein each of the processors is operable to enter an interrupt mode and wherein a uniquely addressable semaphore in memory is associated with each processor and indicates whether the associated processor has exited the interrupt mode.

However, Sedmak teaches wherein each of the processors is operable to enter an interrupt mode and wherein a uniquely addressable semaphore in memory is associated with each processor and indicates whether the associated processor has

exited the interrupt mode. Sedmak teaches in figure 1 of a multiple processor system with processors 104(1) and 104(2), comprising unique semaphore request and grant bits (106(1) and 106(2)). This system is coupled to a semaphore arbiter CAU, 110, which determines which processor has access to the shared resource 105.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the semaphore system of Sedmak in the computer system of Goodman to have a means of managing the interrupts in a multi-processor system, page 1, paragraph 0010. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use the semaphore system of Sedmak in the computer system of Goodman to have a means of managing the interrupts in a multi-processor system, page 1, paragraph 0010);

each of the semaphores is stored in a memory location that is offset from a base memory location by a unique offset indicator (the semaphores are stored in control register 106(1) and 106(2) , page 1, paragraph 0016).

5. As to claim 2, Sedmak discloses the information handling system, wherein each of the semaphores is stored in a memory location that is offset from a base memory location by a unique offset indicator (Figure 1 illustrates control register 106 in each processor that has a unique offset, page 1, paragraph 0016).

6. As to claim 3, Sedmak discloses the information handling system, wherein each processor is operable to access the semaphores associated with the processors

of the information handling system (Each processor has said access via the CAU unit. That arbitrates all semaphore requests, page 1, and paragraph 0016).

7. As to claim 4, Sedmak discloses wherein each processor is operable to access the semaphores associated with the processors of the information handling system on a non-exclusive basis (Each processor has said access via the CAU unit. That arbitrates all semaphore requests, page 1, and paragraph 0016).

8. As to claim 5, Goodman discloses the information handling system, wherein the memory location associated with the storage of the semaphores associated with the processors of the information handling system is memory space dedicated to storing data associated with the entry of the processors into interrupt mode (Said memory space allocation for interrupt sequences, such as power-on self test, COL. 4, lines 10 – 18).

9. As to claim 6, Goodman discloses the information handling system, wherein the interrupt mode is system management interrupt mode (said mode, COL. 3, lines 42 – 45).

10. As to claim 7, Goodman discloses the information handling system, wherein the interrupt mode is a system management interrupt mode (said mode, COL. 3, lines 42 – 45);

Wherein the semaphore associated with the semaphore associated with a processor is stored in a memory location that is offset from a base memory location by a unique offset indicator associated with said processor (Figure 1 illustrates control register 106 in each processor that has a unique offset, page 1, paragraph 0016); and wherein each processor is operable to access the semaphores associated with the processors of the information handling system on a non-exclusive basis (Each processor has said access via the CAU unit. That arbitrates all semaphore requests, page 1, and paragraph 0016).

11. As to claim 8, Goodman discloses a method for processing an interrupt in a multiple processor computer system, comprising the steps of: for each processor, entering interrupt mode (each processor enters the interrupt mode from the assertion of an SMI interrupt to all processors, COL. 4, lines 54 - 56)., Sedmak teaches for each processor, setting a semaphore associated with the processor to indicate that the processor has exited the interrupt mode, wherein a uniquely addressable semaphore in a memory of the computer system is associated with each processor (Figure 1 illustrates that each processor has a request bit and a grant bit. When the request bit is set to zero, the other processor can be granted access via the arbiter CAU, 110, see figure 2); and teaches for each non-interrupt handling processors, exiting interrupt mode up

following the negation of the semaphore associated with the processor (Figure 3 illustrates how the exit phase is accomplished by the processor in step 308, page 3, paragraph 0025).

12. As to claim 9, Sedmak discloses the method for processing an interrupt in a multiple processor computer system, wherein the step of setting a semaphore for each processor comprises the step of setting the semaphore for each processor on a non-exclusive basis (Figure 3 illustrates said method, page 3, paragraph 0025).

13. As to claim 10, Sedmak discloses the method for processing an interrupt in a multiple processor computer system, wherein the step of negating the semaphores of the non-interrupt handling processors of the computer system comprises the step of negating the semaphores of the non-interrupt handling processors of the computer system on a non-exclusive basis (Figure 3 illustrates the negation of each semaphore bit in 308 to exit the access phase, page 3, paragraph 0025).

14. As to claim 11, Goodman discloses the method for processing an interrupt in a multiple processor computer system, wherein the interrupt is a system management interrupt (the interrupt mode is said mode, COL. 3, lines 42 - 45).

15. As to claim 12, Sedmak discloses the method for processing an interrupt in a multiple processor computer system, wherein each of the semaphores are

stored in a memory location that is offset from a base memory location by a unique offset indicator (Figure 1 illustrates control register 106 in each processor that has a unique offset, page 1, paragraph 0016).

16. As to claim 13, Sedmak discloses the method for processing an interrupt in a multiple processor computer system, wherein the step of setting a semaphore for each processor comprises the step of setting the semaphore for each processor on a non-exclusive basis (Figure 3 illustrates said method, page 3, paragraph 0025); wherein the step of negating the semaphores of the non-interrupt handling processors of the computer system comprises the step of negating the semaphores of the non-interrupt handling processors of the computer system on a non-exclusive basis (Figure 3 illustrates the negation of each semaphore bit in 308 to exit the access phase, page 3, paragraph 0025); and wherein each of the semaphores are stored in a memory location that is offset from a base memory location by a unique offset indicator (Figure 1 illustrates control register 106 in each processor that has a unique offset, page 1, paragraph 0016).

17. As to claim 14, Goodman discloses the method for processing an interrupt in a multiple processor computer system, wherein the interrupt is a system management interrupt (Goodman teaches of the interrupt mode is said mode, COL. 3, lines 42 - 45),

Sedmak teaches wherein the step of setting a semaphore for each processor comprises the step of setting the semaphore for each processor on a non-exclusive basis; wherein the step of negating the semaphores of the non-interrupt handling processors of the computer system comprises the step of negating the semaphores of the non-interrupt handling processors of the computer system on a non-exclusive basis (Figure 3 illustrates the negation of each semaphore bit in 308 to exit the access phase, page 3, paragraph 0025); and wherein each of the semaphores is stored in a memory location that is offset from a base memory location by a unique offset indicator (Figure 1 illustrates control register 106 in each processor that has a unique offset, page 1, paragraph 0016).

18. As to claim 15, Goodman discloses a computer system, comprising'. a plurality of processors, a memory (figure 1 of a plurality of processors 12a, 12b ... 12n, COL. 3, lines 1 - 10); a memory (a system memory 16 in figure 1, COL. 3, lines 1 - 10),, wherein the architecture of the processors and the memory is a non-uniform memory access architecture (the support other multiple computer systems comprising numa architecture machines, COL. 2, lines 55 - 67); and

Sedmak teaches wherein each of the processors is operable to enter an interrupt mode and wherein a uniquely addressable semaphore in memory is associated with each processor and indicates whether the associated processor has exited the interrupt

Mode (Figure 1 illustrates a multiple processor core 104 comprising a unique addressable semaphore in memory 106, that follows a methodology that informs when the processor has exited the interrupt mode as illustrated in figure 3, step 308, page 3, paragraph 0026).

19. As to claim 16, Goodman discloses the computer system, wherein the interrupt mode is associated with a system management interrupt (the interrupt mode is said mode, COL. 3, lines 42 - 45).

20. As to claim 17, Sedmak discloses the computer system, wherein each of the semaphores is stored in a memory location that is offset from a base memory location by a unique offset indicator (Figure 1 illustrates control register 106 in each processor that has a unique offset, page 1, paragraph 0016).

21. As to claim 18, Goodman discloses the computer system, wherein the memory location associated with the storage of the semaphores is memory space dedicated to storing data associated with the entry of the processors into interrupt mode (said memory space allocation for interrupt sequences, such as power-on self test, COL. 4, lines 10 - 18).

22. As to claim 19, Sedmak discloses the computer system, wherein the semaphores may be accessed by each of the processors on a non-exclusive basis (Each processor

has said access via the CAU unit. That arbitrates all semaphore requests, page 1, and paragraph 0016).

23. As to claim 20, Sedmak discloses the computer system, wherein the semaphores may be addressed by each of the processors on a non-exclusive basis (Each processor has said access via the CAU unit. That arbitrates all semaphore requests, page 1, and paragraph 0016); and

wherein each of the semaphores is stored in a memory location that is offset from a base memory location by a unique offset indicator ((Figure 1 illustrates control register 106 in each processor that has a unique offset, page 1, paragraph 0016).

Response to Arguments

24. Applicant's arguments filed January 31, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With regards to the applicant's argument that Sedmak does not teach multiple processors, the examiner points to the following teaching of Sedmak.

Sedmak teaches that said invention teaches of implementing an on chip semaphore system including multiple processor cores, page 1, paragraph 0002.

With regards to the applicant's argument that Sedmak does not teach said processor able to enter into an interrupt mode, the examiner points to the following teaching.

Sedmak teaches of outputting a first signal to request access to access a common resource. An interrupt is a signal requesting to stop the execution of a running program , so that another action can be performed. The American Heritage College dictionary,

fourth edition, gives this definition. Therefore the first signal request of Sedmak comprises a interrupt.

With regards to the applicant's that prior art does not teach addressable semaphore in memory associated with the processor. The examiner points to following teaching of Sekmak. Figure 1 teaches a plurality of processor cores 104, with each processor comprising memory register 106 that comprise uniquely addressable semaphore, page 1, paragraph 0016. Each semaphore is associated with a particular processor core. Sekmak provides for a wide embodiment of the invention that comprises multiple semaphores, page 3, paragraph 0026.

With regards to the applicant's argument that Sekmak does not teach negating a semaphore. The release of a semaphore exists an interrupt mode given the definition of interrupt presented above.

Conclusion

25. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher A. Daley whose telephone number is 571 272 3625. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am. - 4p m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on 571 272 3632. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CAD
3/24/2007



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